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RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1960

Index numbers of retail prices for the June quarter of 1960 (with the weighted average of the six capital cities in 1923-1927 as base of 1000) were as shown below.

"C" Series Retail Price Index Numbers and Percentage Increases<sup>a</sup>,  
June Quarter, 1960

City	Aggregate All Groups			All Groups, excluding Price Move- ments in Potatoes and Onions		
	Index Number	Increase <sup>a</sup> from-		Index Number	Increase <sup>a</sup> from-	
		June Qtr., 1959	March Qtr., 1960		June Qtr., 1959	March Qtr., 1960
		%	%		%	%
Brisbane ..	2646	3.7	0.6	2670	3.7	0.5
Toowoomba ..	2591	3.9	0.8	2609	3.8	0.6
Rockhampton ..	2664	4.0	0.9	2685	4.0	0.9
Townsville ..	2798	3.8	-0.2	2822	3.8	-0.4
Bundaberg ..	2623	3.3	0.5	2655	3.8	0.6
Weighted Average						
Five Towns ..	2653	3.7	0.6	2677	3.8	0.5

a Minus (-) indicates a decrease.

During the June quarter, 1960, the "C" Series index number for Brisbane increased by 0.6 per cent., the same rise as for the March quarter, and again less than the average quarterly increase during recent years. Bundaberg recorded an increase very similar to Brisbane's. In Toowoomba, 0.8 per cent., and Rockhampton, 0.9 per cent., the rises were slightly higher, while in Townsville, substantially decreased beef prices were responsible for a net decrease of 0.2 per cent. The exclusion of potatoes and onions, prices of which have sometimes been subject to considerable seasonal fluctuation, had very little effect on the index this quarter, reducing the rise in the Brisbane index to 0.5 per cent., compared with 0.6 per cent. for the complete index. The slight increase in potato prices in Brisbane brought their average price up to normal for the winter season of the year, but onion prices decreased a little.

A small net rise in food and groceries in Brisbane was the result of slightly increased prices for some items being partially offset by decreases in others. Quarterly average prices of potatoes, sugar, and golden syrup increased while meat, onions, and canned fruits decreased. Brisbane's meat prices, which reached a peak during the March quarter, showed a general tendency to decline slightly in the succeeding three months which comprise the June quarter.

The clothing and footwear section of the index accounted for over half of Brisbane's total increase, with the balance fairly evenly distributed amongst the other three groups. Higher prices were most evident in men's and boys' winter clothing and footwear, with women's and girls' winter wear increasing to a lesser extent.

Changes in sections of the index are shown in the following table.

Retail Prices, Percentage Increases<sup>a</sup>, June Quarter, 1960

City	Food and Groceries			Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	From Year Ended June, 1939	From March Quarter, 1960		From Year Ended June, 1939	From March Quarter, 1960	From Year Ended June, 1939	From March Quarter, 1960
	A	A	B				
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Brisbane ..	255.5	0.2	-0.2	322.8	1.2	153.1	0.7
Toowoomba ..	266.7	0.8	0.3	325.0	1.1	150.6	0.6
Rockhampton ..	245.0	0.6	0.4	315.3	1.2	167.2	0.5
Townsville ..	240.9	-1.7	-2.1	318.6	1.2	164.8	0.5
Bundaberg ..	244.2	-0.5	-0.5	322.1	1.3	153.4	0.4

a Minus (-) indicates a decrease.

Note.- A includes, and B excludes, price movements due to potatoes and onions.

### Food and Groceries

Changes in the food and grocery group varied from decreases of 1.7 per cent. in Townsville and 0.5 per cent. in Bundaberg to increases of 0.2 per cent. in Brisbane, 0.6 per cent. in Rockhampton, and 0.8 per cent. in Toowoomba. Beef prices decreased considerably in Townsville, moderately in Bundaberg, and slightly elsewhere. Apart from potatoes and sugar which showed rises in each of the five cities, price changes in other food and grocery items were small.

### Clothing and Footwear

All cities recorded an upward movement in clothing and footwear, varying from 1.1 per cent. in Toowoomba to 1.3 per cent. in Bundaberg. Most price increases were spread over the winter seasonal clothing items and men's and boys' footwear, with the men's section providing the bulk of the rise.

### Miscellaneous

The slight increase in the miscellaneous group of the index ranged from 0.4 per cent. in Bundaberg to 0.7 per cent. in Brisbane. Prices of blankets increased in all cities.

### Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses)

The rent index increased in Bundaberg, 3.4 per cent., Rockhampton, 2.1 per cent., Brisbane, 0.6 per cent., and Townsville, 0.5 per cent., and remained unchanged in Toowoomba.

### Commonwealth and State Basic Wage Rates

The Commonwealth industrial authority suspended automatic ("cost of living") adjustments after the adjustments which operated from the beginning of the first pay-period in August, 1953. Since that date, adjustments to the basic wages have been made from time to time, often on special applications, both by the Commonwealth and State industrial authorities. The last variation made by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was an addition of 15s. to the male basic wage with corresponding adjustments to the female and juvenile rates and operated from 11th June, 1959. At present, the New South Wales basic wage alone is varied automatically with movements of the index numbers. In Queensland and Western Australia, the State Industrial Courts have usually varied the wage after the index numbers have been published. Following publication of the index numbers for the June quarter, 1960, the Queensland State Industrial Court added 2s. to both the male and female basic wage rates. In Sydney, an "automatic" increase of 3s. was applied to the male basic wage rate and 2s. 6d. to the female rate. In Perth, 5s. 11d. was added to the male basic wage, and 4s. 5d. to the female wage. In Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania there was no change.

Current basic wage rates are given in the following table.

Retail Prices and Basic Wage Rates  
Australian Capital Cities

Capital City	Retail Price Index				Commonwealth Basic Wage	State Basic Wage		
	March Qtr., 1960		June Qtr., 1960		Males <sup>a</sup>	Males	Females	Date of Operation
	A	B	A	B				
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Brisbane ..	2630	2657	2646	2670	12 18 0	13 13 0	9 8 0	1.8.60
Sydney ..	2768	2779	2797	2807	14 3 0	14 8 0	10 16 0	1.8.60b
Melbourne ..	2755	2752	2934	2929	13 15 0	13 15 0	10 6 0	22.6.59
Adelaide ..	2739	2749	2809	2818	13 11 0	13 11 0	10 3 0	15.6.59b
Perth ..	2869	2869	2924	2925	13 16 0	14 12 3	10 19 2	25.7.60
Hobart ..	2865	2869	2920	2936	14 2 0	14 2 0	10 11 6	1.7.59b

Note.- A includes, and B excludes, price movements due to potatoes and onions.

a Operative first pay-period beginning on or after 11th June, 1959. The female rates are 75 per cent. of the male rates.

b These rates operate from the first pay-period commencing on or after the date shown.



## The "C" Series Retail Price Index

(Base for Each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1000)

City	Year Ended June, 1939	Year Ended March, 1960	Year Ended June, 1960	Quarter Ended-				
				June, 1959	Sept., 1959	Dec., 1959	March, 1960	June, 1960
1. Aggregate - All Groups								
Brisbane ..	863	2598	2622	2552	2595	2615	2630	2646
Toowoomba ..	851	2539	2564	2494	2537	2555	2571	2591
Rockhampton ..	861	2608	2634	2561	2608	2623	2640	2664
Townsville ..	912	2755	2780	2695	2737	2781	2805	2798
Bundaberg ..	841	2579	2600	2538	2571	2596	2609	2623
Weighted Average Five Towns ..	864	2605	2628	2558	2600	2622	2638	2653
2. All Groups EXCLUDING price movements of potatoes and onions (a)								
Brisbane ..	863	2622	2646	2575	2613	2644	2657	2670
Toowoomba ..	851	2560	2584	2513	2553	2581	2594	2609
Rockhampton ..	861	2631	2657	2581	2629	2651	2662	2685
Townsville ..	912	2780	2806	2718	2758	2811	2833	2822
Bundaberg ..	841	2604	2629	2557	2596	2625	2639	2655
Weighted Average Five Towns ..	864	2629	2653	2580	2619	2650	2665	2677
3. Food and Groceries								
Brisbane ..	856	2995	3026	2919	3006	3016	3037	3043
Toowoomba ..	814	2922	2951	2870	2925	2931	2961	2985
Rockhampton ..	895	3026	3060	2953	3042	3038	3071	3088
Townsville ..	955	3225	3260	3119	3213	3256	3313	3256
Bundaberg ..	903	3076	3102	3003	3077	3099	3125	3108
Weighted Average Five Towns ..	864	3010	3041	2934	3019	3030	3055	3058
4. Food and Groceries EXCLUDING price movements of potatoes and onions (a)								
Brisbane ..	856	3067	3099	2987	3063	3101	3118	3113
Toowoomba ..	814	2981	3009	2923	2971	3004	3026	3036
Rockhampton ..	895	3094	3129	3010	3104	3121	3139	3150
Townsville ..	955	3302	3337	3185	3277	3346	3398	3328
Bundaberg ..	903	3152	3187	3057	3152	3185	3214	3198
Weighted Average Five Towns ..	864	3081	3113	2999	3076	3114	3135	3127
5. Clothing and Footwear								
Brisbane ..	829	3412	3450	3353	3382	3447	3464	3505
Toowoomba ..	829	3426	3465	3366	3396	3459	3483	3523
Rockhampton ..	845	3417	3454	3360	3385	3455	3466	3509
Townsville ..	840	3421	3459	3363	3384	3461	3475	3516
Bundaberg ..	839	3444	3483	3386	3411	3482	3496	3541
Weighted Average Five Towns ..	831	3414	3452	3356	3384	3450	3467	3508

(a) Excluded as from September Quarter, 1955.